

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7769
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NYK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 1039

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, MP
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM TELLS AMBASSADOR HE
PLANS TO RETIRE IN JANUARY

1. DURING AMBASSADORS FAREWELL CALL ON PRIME
MINISTER RAMGOOLAM SEPTEMBER 11 THE PRIME MINISTER
REMARKED THAT HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP TO ATTEND THE
OPENING OF THE UNGA WILL BE HIS LAST TRIP TO THE
U.S. IN AN OFFICIAL CAPACITY. HE EXPLAINED THAT
HE PLANS TO RETIRE FROM THE PRIME MINISTERSHIP IN
JANUARY. HE ADDED THAT HE INTENDS TO NOTIFY HIS
COLLEAGUES OF THIS OFFICIALLY AND PUBLICLY WHEN
THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RECONVENES IN NOVEMBER,
THUS GIVING THEM TWO MONTHS TO PLAN FOR THE SUCCESSION.
IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADORS QUERY AS TO WHETHER THIS
COULD MEAN NEW GENERAL ELECTIONS, RAMGOOLAM SAID NO,
AS MOST LIKELY FINANCE MINISTER RINGADOO WILL TAKE
OVER FROM HIM AS PRIME MINISTER IN JANUARY.
HE THEN SAID THAT HE MIGHT "MOVE TO REDUIT" MEANING
THAT HE WOULD BECOME GOVERNOR GENERAL. BUT, HE NOTED,
THIS WOULD BE UP TO HIS COLLEAGUES TO DECIDE, AND HE
ADDED WITH SOME RESIGNATION THAT IF THEY WANTED HIM
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TO RETIRE "COMPLETELY" HE WOULD DO SO.

2. COMMENT: RAM'S TONE AND MANNER INDICATED THAT
THIS TALK OF RESIGNATION IS NOT A TACTIC BY WHICH HE
HOPES TO FORCE HIS COLLEAGUES TO MAINTAIN HIM IN
POWER BUT IS A SERIOUS DECISION TO RETIRE FROM THE
MAURITIAN POLITICAL SCENE AFTER SOME 30 YEARS OF

LEADERSHIP, ALTHOUGH HE NO DOUBT HOPES TO BE ABLE TO
EXERT SOME CONTINUING INFLUENCE THROUGH THE LARGELY
CEREMONIAL POST OF GOVERNOR GENERAL.

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Message Attributes

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